

## **BRITE-Constellation**

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BRITE-Constellation, a project developed since 2003 by researchers at Canadian and Austrian Universities presently consists of UniBRITE and BRITE-Austria/TUG-SAT1, which are two 20 cm cube nanosatellites. Each will host a 30 mm aperture telescope with a CCD camera equipped with either a red (550 to 700 nm) or a blue (390 to 460 nm) filter, to perform high-precision two-color photometry of the brightest stars in the sky for up to several years. Depending on the orbit and the position of the BRITE targets the photometry can be obtained contiguously during many orbits for many months, with gaps during individual orbits, or only for certain periods of the year.

The primary science goals are studies of luminous stars in our neighbourhood, representing objects which dominate the ecology of our Universe, and of evolved stars to probe the future development of our Sun.

A launch of UniBRITE and BRITE-Austria in 2009 is envisioned and an expansion proposal of the BRITE-Constellation by two additional spacecraft of the same construction is currently under review in Canada.